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# I Learned Contentment-Paul

Wyatt Sawyer

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**HARDING**  
U N I V E R S I T Y

I LEARNED CONTENTMENT - PAUL

Philippians 4: 8-13

360/1.  
Shirk  
Heaven

Contentment here means: satisfaction in present status.  
 Involves graceful acceptance of God's providence to us.  
 Suggestion: Sinful to murmur at Heaven's allotments.  
 Lesson: How Paul learn contentment under all circumstances.

I. SOME THINGS PAUL "KNEW" LED TO HIS CONTENTMENT.

- A. Knew happiness comes only from God's provisions for man.
1. Cannot come from worldly possessions. I Tim. 6:6-14.
  2. Cannot come from prayerless life. Philippians 4:6-7
  3. Cannot come from disobedience to God. Romans 8:28.
  4. Cannot come from doubting heart. I Cor. 15:19-20.
- B. Materialism, Rationalism, Naturalism, Skepticism fail man.

II SOME THINGS PAUL "DID" PUT CONTENTMENT IN HIS LIFE.

- A. He changed all things he could not accept.
1. Changed himself first. Sinner to saved. Acts 22:1-16.
  2. Changed his religion. Jew to Christian. Gal. 1:14.
  3. Changed his occupation. Persecutor, preacher. I Tim. 1:12
  4. Changed all others he could. Doomed to free. Rom. 1:14-17
- B. He accepted all things which he could not change.
1. Could not change Barnabas. Acts 15:36-41. Went anyway.
  2. Could not change Iconium. Acts 14:6. Went elsewhere.
  3. Could not change God. II Cor. 12:7-9. Still gloried.
  4. Could not change all hearers. Acts 20:26-27. No quitter.
  5. Note the wisdom of his course of action.
    - a. Impatience never makes a prospect friendlier. (1.)
    - b. Bitterness never supplies one's wants. (2.)
    - c. Worry never eliminates the obstacles. Adds to. (3.)

III. SOME OF THE BASIS OF PAUL'S CONTENTMENT.

- A. His faith. II Tim. 1:12. "To know" means "have seen". Gr.
- B. His hope. Romans 8:18. Better than none at all.
- C. His vision. II Cor. 5:1. Where grounds for discontent?
- D. His assurance. II Tim. 4:6-8. Can a man expect more?

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INV: Difference between nominal and superior Christ/ian is contentment  
 Difference between sinner and Christian is contentment.  
 Difference between erring Christian and faithful child of  
 God is contentment;

Contrast: Proverbs 13:15 and Matthew 11:28-30.